



EXHIBIT 16
DATE 3-16-07
HB 574

"Investing In Our Communities"

March 14, 2007

TO: Chairman Sinrud and House Appropriation Committee Members

RE: HB 574 – Deer Lodge Rialto Theater

Dear Mr. Sinrud and House Appropriation Committee Member,

Please accept this letter as support for House Bill 574 regarding the financial support for the rebuilding of the Rialto Theater in Deer Lodge. As you may be aware, the interior of the Rialto Theater was destroyed by fire in November, 2006. This event took place after the community of Deer Lodge purchased and refurbished the theater over an eleven year period to the tune of @\$350,000.00. The estimate to rebuild the theater is over \$3,000,000 and with the support from HB 574, Deer Lodge will begin to rebuild the cultural center of our community.

As Chairman of the annual Deer Lodge Rotary Talent Show(47 years), I can attest that the Rialto Theater is the true center of this community. The Rialto is used for both grade school and high school concerts and plays, community theater plays, civic events such as the Rotary Talent Show as well as movies. We have even held memorial services in the theater. It truly is a Civic Center to the community of Deer Lodge.

As of this date, the theater has been cleared of all debris and the work to stabilize the walls and install a new roof system has begun. This community had put together the original \$350,000 to purchase and restore the theater and currently has @\$400,000.00 to begin the restoration again. Pioneer Federal Savings and Loan had contributed over \$33,000.00 towards the original purchase/restoration and we, along with the rest of this community will again be counted on to financially support the rebuilding of the theater.

Thank you again for your consideration with this bill.

Mike Richards
Vice President

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